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Road Trip! A guide to four-wheeled fun

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ROAD TRIP!

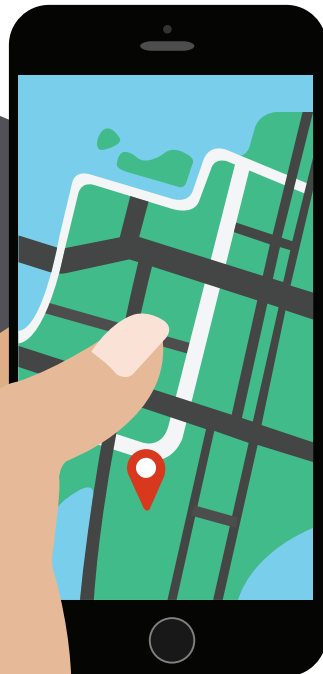
A guide to four-wheeled fun

BY ALEKS IVANISEVIC DESIGN STEPHANIE BREEN



1 Grab the Squad

Sure, taking a long drive alone can be relaxing, but being alone on a full-length road trip can push you to insanity. When planning a road trip, it's a good idea to go with your friends. Be selective in who you choose to travel with. Make sure you get along with everyone for the most part because you will be in a confined space for an extended amount of time. Road tripping with friends makes for better company and better memories. So, gather your squad, and get your show on the road!



2 Plan Ahead!

This is by far the most important part of a road trip. After you have chosen your destination, get some maps and a GPS and start planning which routes you will be taking. Nothing would ruin the excitement of driving to an awesome vacation destination like getting lost along the way... unless, of course, that is the type of adventure you are looking for—then by all means, go and let your wanderlust consume you!



3 Check yourself before you wreck yourself

Another important thing to do before setting off on your journey is to get your car checked. Getting lost while on your road trip is one thing, but having your car break down is another crappy problem altogether. Take the extra time to have a mechanic look at your car—you don't want to be sitting on the side of the road thinking to yourself, "Coulda, shoulda, woulda, but I didn't."



4 Watch the clock

It would be a good idea to know how long the entire road trip will take you and when you will have time to take rest stops. Arriving fashionably late to a party is cool, but shortening your vacation time because you couldn't keep track of it is just dumb.

Depending on how long the road trip is, decide when you will rotate driving with your friends—especially in the evening, because driving can get dangerous, and having a sleepy driver won't make it any safer.

5 Don't break the piggy bank

Manage your money wisely. Try to not overspend on food—yes, fast food can be unhealthy, but it will be cheaper than the cost of a sit-down restaurant. Also, try to save money on lodging if your trip will take longer than a day. A five-star hotel is probably not necessary. Perhaps you can even check if you know anyone who lives nearby that you could stay with. You may not have been the biggest fan of your Aunt Betty growing up, but suddenly you'll be thankful for her and the fact that she lives in the middle of bumble-fuck Wyoming and is offering you her guest bedroom.

6 Trunk Tetris

Pack wisely. Remember, don't go overboard with how much you pack for your trip because it's all going into a very crowded car with many other bags and people. Limit how much you and your squad can bring, or you'll find yourselves playing tetris in the trunk.

7 "Are we there yet?"

Boredom. The true enemy of any road-tripper. Avoid being bored on your next road trip with a few creative activities. While traveling across a few states, chances are you'll drive by some local monuments. For example—as you can imagine—people flock to see the Iowa 80 Truck Stop (the largest truck stop in the world), off of I-80 Exit 284. Places like this are all across America, so do your research. Websites like Roadtrippers.com (there's an app for that!) can help with planning the ultimate map for your road trip, complete with attractions you must see. So stop on by, take some pictures, and make some memories!

Don't underestimate the power of a great playlist. Listening to some upbeat music during your long drive can make time roll by faster. Also, play some good old-fashioned road trip games like I Spy or 21 Questions.

Whatever you do, make the most out of the time you spend with your squad out on the open road! 🚗